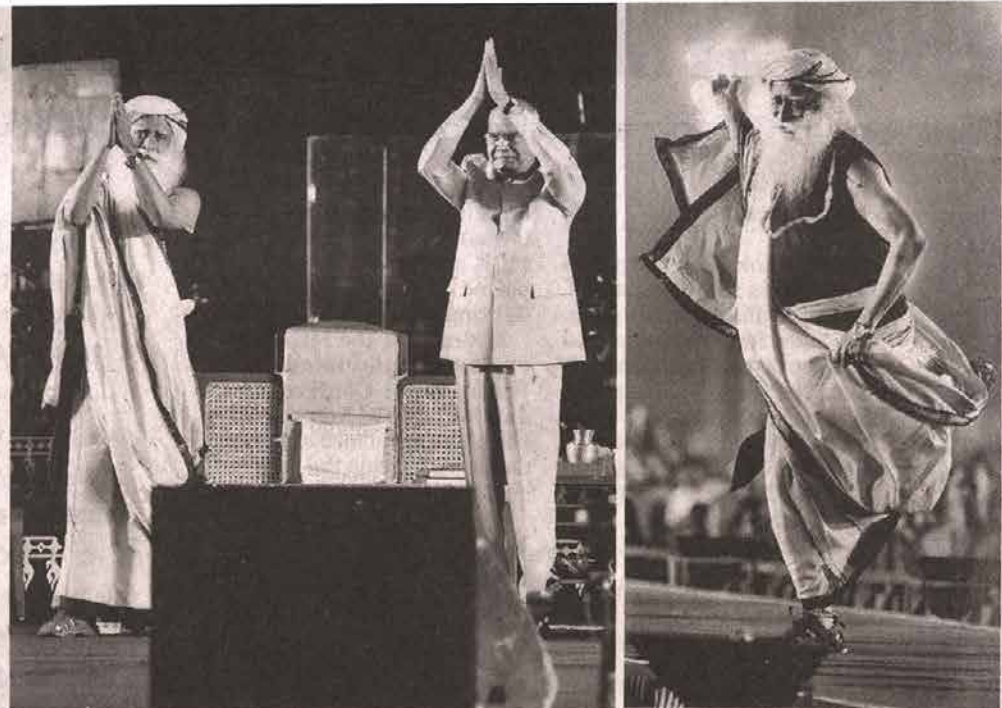


COSMIC CONNECTION

Sadhguru in spiritual ecstasy on the occasion of Shivaratri at Isha Foundation Centre in Coimbatore on Monday | U RAKESH KUMAR



Sadhguru with President Ram Nath Kovind at Coimbatore on Monday evening | EXPRESS

INDIA IS LAND OF FAITH, SPIRITUALISM: PRESIDENT RAM NATH KOVIND

Sadhguru celebrated the 25th anniversary of Mahashivratri in the presence of Adiyogi with a nightlong cultural extravaganza from 6 pm on Monday and ended at 6 am on Tuesday

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Coimbatore

“INDIA is a land of faith and spiritualism and no other nation has as many diverse festivals and celebrations like the country,” says President Ram Nath Kovind during a Mahashivratri festival celebration held at Isha Yoga centre at the foothills of Velliangiri foothills on Monday evening.

“Among our festivals, Mahashivaratri is one of the most endearing, enduring and significant. Millions of devotees celebrate this festival as a day to introspect and reflect upon the values synonymous with Lord Shiva. Shiva has many forms, and one of these is his form as Ardhanareeshwar. In this form one half is a man’s body and one half a wom-

an’s. This indicates that both masculine and feminine aspects need to be in balance for a human personality and for a society to prosper. Today the entire world talks of women empowerment. But emphasising it has always been a part of our cultural ethos,” said President Ram Nath Kovind

He heaped praise on Sadhguru, who hosted the event, and called him a spiritual bridge “that brings our long-cherished values, wisdom and knowledge to the youth of today in a language that they understand”.

President inaugurated the Adiyogi Divya Darshanam, a sound and light laser show, with a narrative on Adiyogi who expounded the 112 ways through which human beings can reach their ultimate nature. Divya Darshanam is

set to become a regular feature for Adiyogi visitors.

An eclectic mix of artists that included drummers from Azerbaijan and Sounds of Isha as well as several classical dancers and folk artists performed through the night. The performances were interspersed with discourses by Sadhguru as well as meditation sessions.

Lakhs of people participated in the much awaited powerful midnight meditation led by Sadhguru. Visitors received a rudraksh bead and the Sarpa Sutra as prasadam. The one lakh and eight rudraksh beads that adorned Adiyogi over the last year were distributed as rudraksh prasadam. The Sarpa Sutra is a consecrated copper snake ring worn on the left ring finger to promote stability and well-being.